



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM 6

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***F A C T   S H E E T***

***SB 1731 — Keep Bay Area Travel SAFE for Only \$1***

**Cost-Effective  
Congestion Relief**

The Legislature is now considering SB 1731 (Yee) that would add an extra dollar to the \$1 fee now paid by motorists who register their vehicles in the nine-county Bay Area. This would allow the highly effective programs operated by MTC's Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) to keep up with inflation, and to spur modest improvements so that incidents can be cleared even faster and traffic congestion can be reduced on Bay Area freeways. Good stewardship of the region's highways has long been known as the single most cost-effective strategy for reducing congestion in the Bay Area.

**Fee Unchanged  
Since 1988**

The \$1 fee on Bay Area vehicle registrations has been in place since 1988. Since that time, the fee has lost nearly 45 percent of its value.

**Tow Truck Fleet  
Delivers Savings**

The Bay Area's Freeway Service Patrol is the second largest of 11 FSP programs in California, with 37 separate patrols covering about 550 centerline miles. In 2007, the Bay Area FSP responded to more than 127,000 incidents — trimming countless hours of delay from motorists' trips, saving more than 2 million gallons of fuel and eliminating over 1,000 pounds of tailpipe emissions.

**State-of-the-Art  
Technology**

The Bay Area's roadside Call Box network is a partnership between MTC, Caltrans and the CHP, offering toll-free, 24-hour service on more than 1,100 miles of highways in urban, rural and suburban parts of the region. The fully accessible call boxes use state-of-the-art digital technology and feature TTY screens and keyboards to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing motorists. Spaced at intervals ranging from a quarter-mile to two miles, the call boxes provide a direct connection to dispatchers who summon assistance for flat tires, mechanical breakdowns or dangerous roadway conditions.

**SAFE Promotes  
Economic Growth**

Roughly half of all congestion on Bay Area freeways results from accidents, breakdowns or other incidents. Because the regional economy relies on a reliable, efficient freeway system — whether it's getting commuters to work on time, delivering exports to the Port of Oakland, or hauling consumer goods to the corner store — it is crucial that these roadblocks be cleared quickly and efficiently.

**Approval Rating  
Tops 95 percent**

More than 95 percent of the motorists who receive FSP assistance rate the service as excellent. Bay Area drivers have this to say: Ø “What can I say? I am a cynic with a deflated ego. I was homeward bound on busy I-280 when my vehicle gave a cough, then a sputter... I couldn't have been stopped for more than three minutes, when a tow truck arrived. Now, here I am, many, many days later, walking around in a state of shock and total disbelief. Thank you! Freeway Service Patrol.” Ø “Excellent idea! Excellent service! It's great to know that our tax dollars

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are at work for us! This service is very much appreciated!!!” Ø “I just wanted to tell whoever is responsible for this program, that as a taxpayer it was both a great surprise and probably the best service that I have received from the state in a long time. I want to thank everyone involved.”

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